

Remarks

This response is submitted within the shortened statutory period of one month to respond to the office action dated January 13, 2004. Therefore, no petition and fee for extension of time is filed with this response.

*I. Claims*

This response amends Claims 1-10 and adds new Claims 11-20. After amendment this application will have one independent Claim (currently amended Claim 1) and a total of 20 Claims (currently amended Claims 1-10 and new Claims 11-20. No claims were cancelled. Applicant respectfully maintains that the present amendments add no new matter and are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are pending. Applicants previously paid for up to 20 total Claims and 3 independent Claims. No fee for excess Claims is due with this response.

*II. Restriction to one of the inventions of Group I-IV*

The Examiner requires a restriction to one of the Inventions of Groups I-IV under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372 on page 2 of the Office Action. The Examiner asserts that Figure 1 is associated with Species I and that Figure 7a is associated with Species II. Unfortunately, the Examiner is silent with respect to Figures 2A-6B, but for the purposes of this response, it is assumed that the Examiner would have grouped those Figures with Species I. Applicant provisionally elects the Invention of Group I (Figure 1) to be examined in the event the requirement becomes final.

Pending Claims 1-6, 10-15 and 18-20 read on the elected Species.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the requirement for restriction and requests consideration of the requirement for the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be an unreasonable burden to carry out a search for Groups I-IV.

This response amends Claims 1-10 and adds Claims 11-20. The amendments and additions that are described in the preceding sentence were done to more fully claim the invention and/or to improve the wording of the Claims and were not done to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, to overcome the prior art or to overcome any other rejections or objections.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed. The petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Respectfully submitted,

February 13, 2004

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(Date of Deposit)

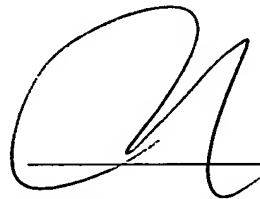
Corinda Humphrey

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(Name of Person Signing)

*Corinda Humphrey*  
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(Signature)

February 13, 2004

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(Date)



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